

## Anthropology 101.002: Introduction to Anthropology

Parkland College

Spring 2019

<https://cobra.parkland.edu/>

**Instructor:** Jacob Skousen

**Lecture Time:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday 1:00-1:50 pm, Room D148

**Office Hours:** Friday 12:00-12:50 pm or by appointment

**Office:** D153

**Email:** BSkousen@parkland.edu

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to *anthropology*, or the study of humans through time and space. Because humans are biologically and culturally complex beings, anthropology is a *holistic* (meaning anthropology studies all aspects of the bio-cultural systems that comprise humanity) and *comparative* (meaning anthropology looks at past and present human cultures around the world) discipline. Specifically, anthropologists study humans' biological and evolutionary roots, the material dimensions of the social world, the human ability to develop culture through communication, and cultural developments today using a variety of methods and tools. In the U.S., anthropology is divided into four subfields: biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and cultural anthropology. In this course you will learn about these four subfields and their unique methods, key anthropological topics, the variability of human cultures through time and space, and how anthropology is applied to solve current global issues.

### OBJECTIVES

Students who take this course will:

- Become familiar with the four subfields of anthropology.
- Become familiar with the primary methods used in each subfield and learn how to apply them.
- Learn about key anthropological concepts, including positionality, reflexivity, culture, race, history, structural violence, and gender.
- Better understand how anthropological concepts (including those mentioned above) effect everyday life as well as broader historical and global trends.
- Gain a better understanding and appreciation of the diversity of human cultures that exist and have existed through time and space.
- Develop a more reflexive perspective and apply it in your own life.

### ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

*Class Activities:* There will be 10 in-class activities that you will perform throughout the semester. These assignments are to ensure that you understand concepts from readings and class, practice applying these concepts, learn about other cultures around the world, and develop a greater sense of reflexivity. These assignments will be handed out in class and completed in class (or, depending on the situation, at some other specified date and time). These are unannounced or "pop" activities, so it would be wise not to skip class. Each activity is worth 3% of your final grade; together, these activities will count for a total of 30% of your final grade.

*Short Assignments:* There are a total of 4 short assignments, one each on physical anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and cultural anthropology. Each assignment draws on class lectures and discussions, readings, and films to ensure that you understand and can apply important anthropological concepts in practical settings. The assignments will consist of activities to perform and

questions to answer. The directions, requirements, due dates, and any other pertinent information for each individual short assignment will be provided on a document posted on the Cobra website under the folder "Short Assignments." Each short assignment is worth 5% of your final grade; all together, these assignments are worth 20% of your grade.

*Midterm Exam:* March 8, in class. Questions will consist of any or all of the following: multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank, short answer, short essay. This test will cover information from readings, class discussions and activities, and movies for the first half of the class (up to March 4<sup>th</sup>). This exam is worth 20% of your final grade.

*Final Exam:* May 14, 11am-1pm, D148. Questions will consist of any or all of the following: multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank, short answer, short essay. This exam will cover information from readings, class discussions and activities, and movies from the second part of the course (anything after March 8<sup>th</sup>). It is not cumulative, but you will be expected to know basic ideas and concepts covered in the first half of the course. This exam is worth 20% of your final grade.

*Class Attendance:* You are required to attend class unless you have a legitimate excuse (see Late Work and Conflicts statement below). I will take role at the beginning of each class. You are allowed to miss a total of 2 class periods at any time throughout the semester without penalty. In all, attendance will count for 10% of your final class grade.

*Grading Breakdown:*

Class Activities – 30%

Short Assignments – 20%

Midterm Exam – 20%

Final Exam – 20%

Class Attendance – 10%

*Grade Scale*

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
59 and below	F

**LATE WORK, ABSENCES, AND CONFLICTS**

**I do not accept late work or excuse absences.** However, I understand that life happens. If you miss an assignment or class due to medical or family emergencies, please let me know and we can make arrangements for makeups or waive absences. I also will allow you to make up assignments and tests if you know ahead of time that you will be predisposed for a legitimate reason (job interviews, medical procedures, conferences, school-sanctioned activities, etc., and not early vacations, parties, or hangovers). Please understand that when you miss class or an assignment for an emergency or other legitimate reason you will still need to provide me with official documentation of the emergency or conflict before I accept the late work, makeups, or whatever else.

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

- Students should arrive to each class ***on time*** and ***having read the readings in advance.***

- Students should come to class **alert** and **ready to take notes and participate**. You should not be sleeping, working on other coursework, or be otherwise disengaged.
- **I will not supply you with lecture notes**. Attending class is imperative for your success. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate or, better yet, come discuss what you missed with me in office hours. I do not post lectures on Cobra.
- **Review your notes and readings regularly**. This will help you prepare for scheduled exams and assignments. Cramming is unwise.
- **All electronic devices must be silenced and put away during class**. If you have a situation that requires you to accept a call or text during class, speak to me privately before class. In case of an emergency, friends and family may contact Public Safety at (217) 351-2369 and the officer on call will find you and let you know of the nature of the emergency.
- **No laptops are allowed during class**. You are expected to take notes by hand. If you have a special need that requires that you use your laptop for note-taking, please talk to me after class and we'll make special arrangements.
- I expect academic honesty and civility, as defined by **Parkland's General College Syllabus**, at all times and throughout the course. This addendum also lists useful information on Parkland's student support services. You can find this document at the following link:  
[https://cobra.parkland.edu/shared/shared\\_content\\_files/General\\_College\\_Syllabus.html](https://cobra.parkland.edu/shared/shared_content_files/General_College_Syllabus.html)

#### **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

If you believe you have a disability for which you may need an academic accommodation (e.g. an alternate testing environment, use of assistive technology, or other accommodations), please contact Laura Wright ([lwright@parkland.edu](mailto:lwright@parkland.edu)) or Kristen Stephens ([kstephens@parkland.edu](mailto:kstephens@parkland.edu)), Room U265, 217-351-2588.

#### **WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION**

Parkland requires instructors to withdraw students on the following dates:

**Monday, January 21: Census Date** – If you have not attended class, you will be withdrawn with a W grade.

**Friday, March 8: Midterm** – If you stop attending class, you may be withdrawn by the instructor.

**Friday, May 3: Withdraw Deadline** – Last day to **withdraw yourself** and get a W. To withdraw from classes, follow the procedures on <http://www.parkland.edu/admissions/withdrawal.aspx>. If you stop attending class but do not officially withdraw by the deadline, you will receive an F for the course.

\*Please notify me if you are thinking of withdrawing from this class. I am committed to student success and, almost always, students and I have been able to work through difficulties.

#### **REQUIRED TEXT**

Lavenda, Robert H. and Emily A. Schultz. *Anthropology: What Does It Mean to Be Human? 4th edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.

This text is available for purchase at the college bookstore. A copy is also available on reserve at the Parkland College library. I will post other required readings for the course that are not included in the textbook on the course's Cobra website in a folder labeled "Readings."

#### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT**

You can reach me by email (which is on the front of this syllabus) with any questions on the course requirements, readings, or anything related to anthropology. Feel free to drop by my office hours (Fridays 12-12:50 pm) or make an appointment if my office hours do not fit your schedule. *I strongly*

*encourage you to visit or email me at least once in the semester to discuss assignments, voice your opinion, and review any concepts or lessons that you missed or find difficult.*

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK 1: Welcome and The Basics**

January 14 (Monday) – Welcome and Introduction to the Course

*Readings:* NONE

January 16 (Wednesday) – What is Anthropology?

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 1, What is Anthropology?” (pp. 3-20).

January 18 (Friday) – Anthropology as Science

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Module 1: Anthropology, Science, and Storytelling” (pp. 21-29)

### **WEEK 2: Biological Anthropology**

January 21 (Monday) – **NO CLASS**, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

*Readings:* NONE

January 23 (Wednesday) – The Importance of Evolution

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 2: Why is Evolution Important to Anthropologists?” (pp. 31-59).

January 25 (Friday) – Film: What Darwin Never Knew

*Readings:* NONE

### **WEEK 3: Biological Anthropology**

January 28 (Monday) – Evolution and Human Variation

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 5: What Can Evolutionary Theory Tell Us About Human Variation?” (pp. 143-167).

January 30 (Wednesday) – CLASS CANCELED

February 1 (Friday) – CLASS CANCELED

### **WEEK 4: Biological Anthropology**

February 4 (Monday) – Race

*Readings:* Study the website <http://www.understandingrace.org/>

February 6 (Wednesday) – Primates

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 3: What Can the Study of Primates Tell Us About Human Beings?” (pp. 61-81).

February 8 (Friday) – Ape Genius

*Readings:* NONE

### **WEEK 5: Biological Anthropology**

February 11 (Monday) – Fossil Record

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 4: What Can the Fossil Record Tell Us About Human Origins?” (pp. 95-107).

February 13 (Wednesday) – Fossil Record

*Readings:* 1) Lavenda, “Chapter 4: What Can the Fossil Record Tell Us About Human Origins?” (pp. 108-141).

2) Browse the Smithsonian Interactive Evolutionary timeline at <http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/human-evolution-timeline-interactive>

February 15 (Friday) – Biological Anthropology Short Assignment activity

*Readings:* NONE

### **WEEK 6: Biological Anthropology and Archaeology**

February 18 (Monday) – Film: The Great Human Odyssey, Part 1

*Readings:* NONE

February 20 (Wednesday) – Film: The Great Human Odyssey, Part 2

*Readings:* NONE

**\*\*\*BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY SHORT ASSIGNMENT DUE\*\*\***

February 22 (Friday) – What is Archaeology?

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 6: How Do We Know about the Human Past?” (pp. 169-183).

### **WEEK 7: Archaeology**

February 25 (Monday) – Pseudoarchaeology

*Readings:* Visit [www.pseudoarchaeology.org](http://www.pseudoarchaeology.org) and read the link under “What is Pseudoarchaeology?” as well as one of the Research Papers of your choice (on the same website, just follow the links).

February 27 (Wednesday) – Why History Matters

*Readings:* Read [www.history.ac.uk/makinghistory/resources/articles/why\\_history\\_matters.html](http://www.history.ac.uk/makinghistory/resources/articles/why_history_matters.html)

March 1 (Friday) – Survey, Excavations, and Mapping

*Readings:* Renfrew and Bahn, “Chapter 3: Where? Survey and Excavation of Sites and Features”, in Readings folder in Cobra

### **WEEK 8: Archaeology and Midterm**

March 4 (Monday) – Artifacts

*Readings:* NONE

March 6 (Wednesday) – Review for Midterm

*Readings:* NONE

March 8 (Friday) – **MIDTERM EXAM**, in class

*Readings:* NONE

### **WEEK 9: Archaeology**

March 11 (Monday) – Archaeological Questions: How Old Is It?

*Readings:* 1) Renfrew and Bahn, “Chapter 4: When? Dating Methods and Chronology,” in Readings folder in Cobra, 2) Lavenda, “Module 2: Dating Methods in Paleoanthropology and Archaeology” (pp. 82-93).

March 13 (Wednesday) – Experimental Archaeology

*Readings:* Stull, “Experimental Archaeology as Participant Observation: A Perspective from Medieval Food” (EXARC Journal, Issue 4, 2017). Available at <https://exarc.net/issue-2017-4/int/experimental-archaeology-participant-observation-perspective-medieval-food>

March 15 (Friday) – Archaeological Questions: Domestication and Sedentism

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 7: Why Did Humans Settle down, Build Cities, and Establish States?” (pp. 201-221).

**\*\*\*ARCHAEOLOGY SHORT ASSIGNMENT DUE\*\*\***

**WEEK 10: SPRING BREAK!**

March 18-22 – No class

**WEEK 11: Archaeology**

March 25 (Monday) – Object Biographies

*Readings:* Gosden and Marshall 1999, “The Cultural Biography of Objects”, in Readings folder in Cobra.

March 27 (Wednesday) – Anthropology Speaker Series, Dr. Kasia Szremksi

*Readings:* Details TBA

March 29 (Friday) – Archaeological Questions: Urbanism, Cities, and States

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 7: Why Did Humans Settle Down, Build Cities, and Establish States?” (pp. 222-235).

**WEEK 12: Archaeology**

April 1 (Monday) – Film: Secrets of Stonehenge

*Readings:* NONE

April 3 (Wednesday) – Contemporary Issues in Archaeology

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 6: How Do We Know about the Human Past?” (pp. 183-199).

**IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT – WHO OWNS THE PAST? ELGIN MARBLES**

April 5 (Friday) – The Contested Past

*Readings:* Silverman, “Border Wars: The Ongoing Temple Dispute Between Thailand and Cambodia and UNESCO’s World Heritage List” (pp. 1-21, International Journal of Heritage Studies, 2011), under Week 9 folder in Cobra.

**WEEK 13: Linguistic Anthropology**

April 8 (Monday) – Linguistic Anthropology

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 9: Why is Understanding Human Language Important?” (pp. 273-297).

April 10 (Wednesday) – Components of Language

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Module 4: Components of Language” (pp. 298-301).

April 12 (Friday) – Patterns of Speech

*Readings:* O’Barr and Conley, “When a Juror Watches a Lawyer”, under Week 10 folder in Cobra.

### **WEEK 14: Cultural Anthropology**

April 15 (Monday) – Concept of Culture

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 8: Why is the Concept of Culture Important?” (pp. 237-256).

**IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT – THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL RELATIVISM**

April 17 (Wednesday) – Ethnographic Methods

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Module 3: On Ethnographic Methods” (pp. 257-271).

**\*\*\*LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY SHORT ASSIGNMENT DUE\*\*\***

April 19 (Friday) – Worldview, Beliefs, and Religion

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 10: How Do We Making Meaning?” (pp. 303-335).

### **WEEK 15: Cultural Anthropology**

April 22 (Monday) – Economics

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 11: Why Do Anthropologists Study Economic Relations?” (pp. 337-361).

April 24 (Wednesday) – Social Inequality

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 15: What Can Anthropology Tell Us About Social Inequality?” (pp. 469-501).

April 26 (Friday) – Politics and Power

*Readings:* Lavenda, “Chapter 12: How Do Anthropologists Study Political Relations?” (pp. 363-391).

### **WEEK 16: Cultural Anthropology**

April 29 (Monday) – Structural Violence

*Readings:* Farmer, “On Suffering and Structural Violence: A View from Below”, in Readings folder in Cobra.

May 1 (Wednesday) – Kinship

*Readings:* Lavenda “Chapter 14: Where Do Our Relatives Come From and Why Do They Matter?” (pp. 421-467).

May 3 (Friday) – Gender and Sexuality

*Readings:* Lavenda “Chapter 13: What Can Anthropology Teach Us About Sex, Gender, and Sexuality?” (pp. 393-419).

**IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT – PERFORMING GENDER**

### **WEEK 17: Cultural Anthropology, Wrap Up, and Review**

May 6 (Monday) – Review for Final

*Readings:* NONE

**\*\*\*CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY SHORT ASSIGNMENT DUE\*\*\***

May 8 (Wednesday) – Review for Final

*Readings:* NONE

**IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT – FINAL SURVEY**

**FINAL EXAM:** MAY 14 (Tuesday), 11am-1pm, D148

*\*This syllabus is subject to change during the semester based on our progress and may be modified by the instructor. You will be notified of any changes both on the course's Cobra website and in class.*